C553M

James Freeman Clarke

A MONTHLY CALENDAR

FOR

1910

JANUARY

WORK

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James Freeman Clarke

A MONTHLY CALENDAR

FOR

1910

JANUARY

WORK

BOSTON
GEO. H. ELLIS CO., 272 CONGRESS STREET
1909

January 1. Saturday.

THIS is the first thing to remember, if we wish for a happy year: that pleasure, which comes from without, is evanescent, but happiness, which comes from within, is permanent.

I wish you through this whole year a heart right toward God, hands ready to help your fellow-man.

January 2. Sunday.

A DAY to lift up the soul to God and bring man nearer to his brother. Let every Sunday sing the angels' song to all human hearts, of "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men."

January 3. Monday.

IF we live millions of years, nothing can happen to us more wonderful than this,—that we have begun to be, that we are born into this great universe, infinite in extent, everlasting in duration, and filled with the presence of divine power, wisdom, and love.

January 4. Tuesday.

TO get the most out of the coming year, we must put the most into it. We do this by living in a spirit of earnestness, doing with our might what our hand finds to do, receiving each golden hour as a precious gift from God.

January 5. Wednesday.

EVERY day we rise to a great career, a grand opportunity. Into the smallest work and act we may put the most divine or the most devilish spirit.

January 6. Thursday.

LET us not think lightly of our destiny. Christ, it is said, was "before Abraham" in the purpose of God: he was foreordained before the foundation of the world to be the Saviour of mankind. But each of us was also foreordained before the foundation of the world.

January 7. Friday.

THINK also this,—that each of us has been created for a special work, that each is an essential part of the great whole, and that, as the soul is unfolded, and we are developed more and more, we shall find ourselves here for a special mission.

January 8. Saturday.

YOU can put into a minute of time only just so much manual labor, but you can add to the same minute thought and love.

January 9. Sunday.

THE higher the life, the more of external help it needs for its development. Man, the highest of all creatures, does not live by bread only, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

January 10. Monday.

LET us remember that we are never asked to do a duty but that power will be given us with which to do it. This year let us lean more and more on this inward inspiration; let us be sure that this comfort, this light, this guidance, this strength and peace, may always be ours.

January 11. Tuesday.

WE have been placed in one of the many mansions of our Father's house, to grow up into what he means us to be. But, to make the most of life, we must feel what an unspeakable gift is bestowed on each of us, in that we live.

January 12. Wednesday.

MANY people walk about the world as in a dream. But duty is in the present, love is in the present, all real life is in the present; and heart, mind, and hand must be weakened by not taking hold of the present with energy.

January 13. Thursday.

NATURE is the teacher of the intellect, but labor forms the character. Nature makes us acquainted with facts and laws; but labor teaches tenacity of purpose, perseverance in action, decision, resolution, and self-respect.

January 14. Friday.

PLENTY of work makes life full. . . . Work is the real bread which comes down from heaven, and is gathered every morning by man, going forth to his labor.

January 15. Saturday.

THE hard routine of work into which no love and thought enter leaves us in a lethargy. To "redeem the time," we must look up, not down. Seeking things below takes our strength away. Waiting on the Lord for his higher gifts renews us day by day.

January 16. Sunday.

IN order to be forever young, we must have this life which is "hid with Christ in God"; the life in two worlds,—that of sense and time, that of soul and eternity. Then no event is simply material. There is a meaning in all, intelligent purpose, divine wisdom.

January 17. Monday.

TRUE human progress often consists rather in taking the good of our position and bearing its evils than in breaking away from inharmonious relations. The heart grows great and noble by manfully meeting and bearing the great trials of life.

January 18. Tuesday.

WE all have within us the principle of immortal youth. Thought is always young. Knowledge never grows old. Joy in the beauty of nature, in the work of daily duty, in the divine love, gives to age the charm of childhood.

January 19. Wednesday.

NOT only genius, but goodness, lengthens our days. To those who acquire the habit of helping others, giving comfort, cheerfulness, strength, wherever they go, much is given in return,—contentment, trust in God, confidence in their fellow-men, sweet hopes, peaceful memories.

January 20. Thursday.

A SINGLE act of genuine, sincere, thorough-going fidelity raises us at once to a higher plane; and our whole life proceeds henceforth by a nobler, manlier measure.

January 21. Friday.

WE may walk every day into heaven, as we walk down the street. According to the state of our soul, we shall keep company with devils or with angels.

January 22. Saturday.

THEREFORE for every idle word shall a man give an account in the day of judgment, because his idle words are all polarized by the central magnetism which governs his soul.

January 23. Sunday.

A DAY in which no gloom is allowable, a day on which every one of the family should bring all his gifts of good humor and inventions of kindness to the rest.

January 24. Monday.

IN times like these, when there is so much to distract our thoughts, it is necessary to learn to concentrate our aims on some one important purpose. Self-consecration is that which gives unity, content, and value to life.

January 25. Tuesday.

IF we resolve on a noble and generous direction of our life, then angels and archangels, holy and pure spirits, will be our companions and inward monitors; for, as we are inwardly, so shall we be surrounded outwardly.

January 26. Wednesday.

DO not run after happiness, but seek to do good, and you will find that happiness will run after you. The day will dawn full of expectation, the night fall full of repose. This world will seem a very good place, and the world to come a better place still.

January 27. Thursday.

DEATH is serious, but life more so. We have no responsibility about dying, but a great deal about living.

January 28. Friday.

FAITH not only leads to work, but the effort to work leads to faith. Always the deepest religious experience is born of the strongest moral purpose.

January 29. Saturday.

PRAY for the chance of making some great sacrifice, or, rather, find such an opportunity for yourself. Look for it, for it is very nigh thee now. Angel opportunities come to us every day, and we entertain them unawares.

January 30. Sunday.

DEAR Friend, whose presence in the house,
Whose gracious word benign,
Could once, at Cana's wedding-feast,
Change water into wine:

Come visit us; and, when dull work
Grows weary, line on line,
Revive our souls, and make us see
Life's water glow as wine.

January 31. Monday.

GAY mirth shall deepen into joy,
Earth's hopes shall grow divine,
When Jesus visits us to turn
Life's water into wine.

The social talk, the evening fire,
The homely household shrine,
Shall glow with angel visits when
The Lord pours out the wine.

For, when self-seeking turns to love,
Which knows not mine and thine,
The miracle again is wrought,
And water changed to wine.

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James Freeman Clarke

A

MONTHLY CALENDAR

FOR

1910

FEBRUARY

PRAYER

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FEBRUARY

PRAYER

BOSTON
GEO. H. ELLIS CO., 272 CONGRESS STREET
1910

February 1. Tuesday.

NO man can work to much purpose unless he has peace within, unless the centre of the soul be calm and serene. Therefore, Jesus says, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest."

February 2. Wednesday.

AS we cannot prepare ourselves sufficiently for the opportunities of each day by any amount of discipline or any strength of determination, we have a right to believe that, by looking up and opening our soul to God, he will give us the power of meeting each opportunity aright.

February 3. Thursday.

THE one thing we all need to keep us from being weary is faith in the divine Presence and divine Love. Those who look at the things seen and temporal are easily discouraged, not those who look at the things unseen and eternal.

February 4. Friday.

WITHOUT this faith, how sure we are to postpone any difficult work! But, with confidence in an ever-present help, we can meet every occasion; and we shall understand the meaning of the Christian paradox, "When I am weak, then I am strong."

February 5. Saturday.

BY resting from anxiety, men can work better and conquer their difficulties better; for care and anxiety unnerve the soul, and to try to live in anxiety is to try to live without sleep.

February 6. Sunday.

MEN should give all their thought for a time to their duties, put their whole heart into them, and then take an hour of rest in God's blessed love, and cast all their cares on Him who cares for them.

February 7. Monday.

SLEEP and wakefulness, passive life and active life, faith and works, piety and morality, love to God and love to man,—these are the polar forces of the bodily, mental, and moral life, which act and react on each other and keep us as we ought to be.

February 8. Tuesday.

CHRIST leads us through the law to the gospel, through duty to trust, through work to prayer, through the sense of responsibility to the sense of dependence.

February 9. Ash Wednesday.

INTO these oratories of thought, love, and prayer let us go to consider and ponder; and then let us take hold of life and do the will of the Master.

February 10. Thursday.

YOU cannot work well, except you stop working sometimes and pray. You cannot pray well, unless you stop praying sometimes to work.

February 11. Friday.

HE who labors for man, with no faith in God, labors to little good. He who worships God, without serving man, worships to little good.

February 12. Saturday.

THE most powerful incentive to prayer is the need we feel of help that we may help others.

February 13. Sunday.

GOD sends times for work and times for consideration. He sends us homes, where we may rest. He sends calm evening and dewy night, the companionship of wise and loving hearts, and the peace of this holy day.

February 14. Monday.

WHEN I have prayed, because I could no longer do without prayer, God has hastened to meet my ignorant supplication, and answered it,—oh, so sweetly! filling my soul down to its very depths with the peace of God passing all understanding.

February 15. Tuesday.

WHENEVER we have rest in our soul, the peace and love of God in our hearts, we cannot help doing good: some ray of divine light and love will pass from God through our souls to the souls of others.

February 16. Wednesday.

"EVERY one that asketh receiveth." Every one! Then it is a *law* that prayer is answered. It is not a caprice, but a divine method, sure and certain as any law of nature.

February 17. Thursday.

PRAY more or pray less, as your needs impel you. Only, *when* you pray, pray in spirit and truth. Ask God for what you really want. Do not say a word until you can really put your heart into it.

February 18. Friday.

FORGIVENESS (too) comes not by caprice, but by law. "If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins." Observe, it is not said, "He is merciful," but "He is faithful and just."

February 19. Saturday.

IF you have any trial which seems intolerable, pray. . . . We may pray for anything, not wrong in itself, if we do not pray selfishly. One disabled from duty by sickness may pray for health, that he may do his work.

February 20. Sunday.

ACTION and reaction are equal in our life. "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you." Arise and go to your Father, and your Father comes to you.

February 21. Monday.

OUR salvation is this,—we are safe as long as we believe that we are God's children, because then we shall always go to him in any temptation and danger. We are therefore saved through faith by grace.

February 22. Tuesday. Birthday of Washington.

SUCH souls never die: they only go out of sight. "Dying, behold they live!" Their souls have passed into the heart of the nation. Death transforms them from an individual power among us into a universal presence within us. So Washington has gone into the nation's life.

February 23. Wednesday.

IF we have a besetting sin, we may pray to be delivered from it, in order to serve God and man, and not be ourselves Satans to mislead and destroy.

February 24. Thursday.

WE pray against our besetting sin. But God may answer this prayer, not by removing the temptation, but by giving us more confidence in him, more sense of his pardoning love in Christ. Instead of removing the temptation, God comes and dwells with us.

February 25. Friday.

NO prayer can go up to God from any human heart more acceptable than that which asks that the loved one may be preserved from some ensnaring temptation, from the bewildering sophistry of worldliness, which asks not outward good, but inward life, for those most dear.

February 26. Saturday.

EVERY earnest purpose, every trusting prayer, brings us nearer to God. We have the evidence and witness of his being within our soul. As the shadows of night vanish with the coming dawn, so our doubt and unbelief disappear as we live from God, for man.

February 27. Sunday.

WHEN peace is not in us, we may do good with our hand, and that is something, that is better than nothing. But, when we have God's peace in our heart, then we help and comfort others with the comfort by which we ourselves are comforted by God.

February 28. Monday.

THEN faith, hope, and love will abide,—faith leading to sight, hope urging to progress, and love enabling us to work with Christ for the redemption of the race.

James Freeman Clarke

A MONTHLY CALENDAR

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1910

MARCH

JESUS CHRIST

BOSTON
GEO. H. ELLIS CO., 272 CONGRESS STREET
1910

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A MONTHLY CALENDAR

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MARCH

JESUS CHRIST

BOSTON
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1910

JESUS CHRIST

March 1. Tuesday.

THAT which makes the difference between Jesus and the other teachers of mankind is his entire confidence in God as his father and friend.

March 2. Wednesday.

AND of this fulness we have all received. That is the culminating and surpassing wonder. The experience of Jesus may become the experience of his humblest disciple. Through him we all have access by one spirit to the Father.

March 3. Thursday.

CHRIST may say in truth, "No man cometh to the Father but by me." Before Christ, men went to Jehovah, the God of Justice; to Jupiter, the God of Power; to Brahm, the abstract spirit; to Boodh, the representative of the human soul, struggling against the laws of nature.

March 4. Friday.

BEFORE Christ, men went to Science, and found God as Infinite Law; they went to Philosophy, and found God as Reason and Cause. But never, never did they find their Father, except through Jesus, and he became by that revelation High Priest of the human race forever.

March 5. Saturday.

WE bless him who can make us see God. We are often away from God. We have lost sight of him. It seems as if he had forgotten us. Who shall show us the way back to our Father?

March 6. Sunday.

JESUS gives us rest by giving us a sense of an infinite love within us and around us, of a perfect providence watching over us, of a fulness of goodness in the universe. He makes us feel that life is worth living, that every day is a new and sacred gift sent to us direct from God.

March 7. Monday.

GOD is always near us, always waiting to be gracious. But we do not know it or do not believe it. Jesus in his tenderness toward the sinner so mediates a divine tenderness, so that we are able to believe in God's love, and can come to him.

March 8. Tuesday.

WE have four central ideas undoubtedly present to the mind of Jesus,—faith in the fatherly love of God, trust in the all-conquering power of truth, the breadth of his human sympathy, and his mission to the sinful and abandoned.

March 9. Wednesday.

I BELIEVE that Jesus first of all men clearly saw, and alone among men has fully declared, the infinite pardoning love of God to the sinner.

March 10. Thursday.

JESUS, who spent whole nights in prayer, spent long days in doing good. You cannot say whether God or man was nearer to that large heart.

March 11. Friday.

IN looking for Christ's poor, we find him; in visiting his prisoners, we visit him; in speaking words of truth and love to the sinful and weak, we find ourselves in secret intimacy and sympathy with our Master.

March 12. Saturday.

THE great blessing which Jesus has bestowed on mankind is not that he teaches truths never known before or that he had supernatural power over the outward world, but that he leads us up into a richer and fuller life.

March 13. Sunday.

THE Lord's day fulfils both the Jewish Sabbath and pagan Sunday: it fulfils the physical rest of the Jewish Sabbath by the rest of the soul, by freedom from anxious doubts and fears; it fulfils pagan pleasure by deeper joy, born of faith, hope, and love.

March 14. Monday.

WE do not know Christ only by reading about his life and miracles, but by having him formed in our hearts, by making ourselves Christs to other souls, by letting his spirit act in and through us, and so leading others to him.

March 15. Tuesday.

THIS was the supernatural element in Jesus, to be able to bring down heaven upon earth, to make immortality present, to incarnate the Messianic hope in his own life, and to be in heaven and upon earth at the same moment.

March 16. Wednesday.

"ONE Lord, Jesus Christ," the way, truth, and life; the door through which we enter on our upward way; the bread which feeds our life; the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world, showing us how God comes to dwell among men and to save all his children.

March 17. Thursday.

HOW are we to have faith in Christ as the door? Not by bowing down and worshipping the door, but by rising up and going through it.

March 18. Friday.

HOW do we show our faith in Christ as the living bread? Surely, by feeding our souls with it day by day. And how do we most sincerely show our belief in him as the good shepherd, unless it be by joining his flock and following him?

March 19. Saturday.

WHEN our eyes close to all earthly sights, this divine brother is near us to sustain and cheer us with a hope full of immortality. As the world advances on the vast highway of progress, Christ will not become less human or less divine, but more so.

March 20. Sunday.

JESUS saw, with the inward eye of inspiration, the facts and laws of the spiritual world, as we see with the outward eye the facts of the physical world.

March 21. Monday.

THE thinkers who leave Christ are not the advanced thinkers, but the retrograde thinkers. They are turning away from the only ideal which is leading the world forward.

March 22. Tuesday.

ALL critical objections dissolve in air before the personality which looks not upon us through these simple records.

March 23. Wednesday.

NOTWITHSTANDING the narrowness of his nation, the ignorance of his biographers, the low views of God and man prevailing around him, we hear a voice which speaks with the authority of perfect insight. That voice creates a new era and pours light on time and eternity.

March 24. Thursday.

I BELIEVE Jesus to have been Son of God and divine, because filled full of the divine truth and love, and always abiding therein. He alone of the sons of men was always resting on the Infinite Love.

March 25. Friday.

JESUS makes the soul alive, therefore he is the resurrection. He lifts us up *now*, so that we are near God, and dwelling in heavenly places; and this takes away all anxiety about the hereafter. Fulness of present life is the best argument against death.

March 26. Saturday.

IMMORTALITY and the resurrection begin here. We rise with Christ into a higher life with every right word, act, purpose, and affection. We sit with Christ Jesus now in heavenly places.

March 27. Easter Sunday.

THE heavens are opened, and we talk with the spirits of the just made perfect, and walk attended by the loved and lost, and, while dwelling in these tents, hear the music of the skies.

March 28. Monday.

THEREFORE, O human heart, continue to hope in the midst of all fear, all disappointment, all decay and change. *Christ has risen!* He does not lie in the grave: he is at the right hand of God.

March 29. Tuesday.

I SOMETIMES hear it said, "If Jesus be not God, I will throw away my Bible, for I do not want a human Saviour." But shall we refuse salvation because God sends it to us through a human brother?

March 30. Wednesday.

IF God has made of this, my dear human brother, a mirror to reflect the divine love and truth, shall I shut my eyes and deny this great revelation? Jesus says, "He who has seen me, has seen the Father!" That I can believe.

March 31. Thursday.

WHEN I look at Jesus, I am brought into the presence of God. His faith in God is an inspiration to my faith. His perfect confidence in a loving fatherly presence inspires me with a like confidence. He becomes the channel through which the heavenly love and truth of God descend into my soul. He is the mediator of the highest inspiration which has ever come to man. When I look at him, I look through him to God, his Father and mine.

C553

James Freeman Clarke

A

MONTHLY CALENDAR

FOR

1910

APRIL

GOD

James Freeman Clarke

A

MONTHLY CALENDAR

FOR

1910

APRIL

GOD

BOSTON
GEO. H. ELLIS CO., 272 CONGRESS STREET
1910

God.

April 1. *Friday.*

WE have a Friend who knows us better than we know ourselves, loves us better than we love ourselves, helps us when we cannot help ourselves, forgives us when we cannot forgive ourselves, and in our deepest despair breathes into our heart the breath of a new and divine hope.

April 2. *Saturday.*

THE gift of Jesus to mankind has been his faith in the never-failing presence of an Infinite Love. He, first of all human beings, rose to this perfect and unfailing confidence, and has inspired the human race with this divine influence.

April 3. *Sunday. Birthday of Edward Everett Hale.*

THE whole Christian world has a more living sense of the nearness of God, of his Providence, of his love, than it would have had but for the profound faith of Jesus. A sense of the fatherly love of God has become a part of your instinctive faith and mine.

April 4. *Monday. Birthday of James Freeman Clarke.*

EVERY humble soul, that sees the Father, and lives in that sweet vision, becomes a priest to other souls. A sacramental power goes from the voice, the touch, the look, of one who himself loves God.

April 5. *Tuesday.*

WHEN we believe in God as unchanging goodness, as impartial justice, as absolute reason, as infinite love, as the life in all nature, the inspiration of every human soul, we make this life and the next a heaven of divine peace.

April 6. *Wednesday. Birthday of Edmund Hamilton Sears.*

THE life of God flows to us through these channels. Deeper than all depth, higher than all height, the Spirit comes through these human hearts to ours.

April 7. *Thursday. Birthday of Channing.*

WHOEVER has helped us to truth, to goodness, to better purposes and better faith, is ours, and will belong to us always. All the great divine souls of history are ours, our friends and helpers forever. These are the gifts of God, which he will never take away from us.

April 8. *Friday.*

JESUS tells us that we live by every word which proceeds out of the mouth of God. Thus he rebukes narrowness which would make him the only word of God. He wishes us to hear God's voice in nature, in history, in friendship, in love, in life and death.

April 9. *Saturday.*

IT is by coming to God every day, and trusting in him, leaning on his help, believing in his providence, conversing with him in throbs and aspirations of prayer, that we come at last to be as certain of God's presence and love as of our own existence.

April 10. *Sunday.*

INFINITE Spirit! who art round us ever,
In whom we float, as motes in summer sky,
May neither life nor death the sweet bond sever,
Which joins us to our unseen Friend on high.

April 11. *Monday.*

"MY heart and flesh cry out for the living God!" The God whom we need, whom the heart and flesh of man desire, is the living God. Not a mere Law of the Universe, nor a Spirit of Intellectual Beauty, nor a First Cause only, nor the Unknown and Unknowable Substance behind all phenomena, nor the Absolute Being outside of all relations and devoid of qualities, nor the three Subsistences in one Essence. These are the gods of theologians and philosophers.

April 12. *Tuesday.*

BUT the human heart has always cried out for the living God, the personal Friend, the God who is a Protector and a Shield, in whom we can trust; our Father, the God and Father of Jesus Christ.

April 13. *Wednesday.*

THE unconscious knowledge of God is good, but it is not enough. We need, not only to know God, but to know that we know him. This is life eternal, this fills the soul with spiritual life.

April 14. *Thursday.*

THE intellect needs to know God in order to be able to understand the mysteries of the universe, to find behind all creation its primal cause, beneath all changing phenomena their unchanging essence, back of all the surface beauty of things their all-bountiful source.

April 15. *Friday.*

THE conscience needs to know God, that it may perceive an infinite justice below all that seems false and evil; a perfect goodness, towards which all wrong tends as its solution; a revelation of righteousness to come. Believing in this, we can be patient and endure the present evil and wrong, sure that all things are working together for ultimate good.

April 16. *Saturday.*

AND the heart needs to know God as the all-Beautiful and all-Good, the source of whatever is tender and lovable in this world. Otherwise our most beautiful ideals are only bubbles on the stream of accident. Unless God is in all, earthly love is unsubstantial.

April 17. *Sunday.*

BUT is not this the wonder of wonders, the most inexplicable and unspeakable fact,—that the Infinite Being, the great order of the universe, the profound substance beneath all existence,—he who is above the reach of reason, imagination, philosophy,—should not be above the reach of love?

April 18. *Monday.*

TO the intellect the mystery is unfathomable. But there was one human soul able to draw aside the veil; one who from the first spoke of God as Father. The inspired heart of Jesus went to a depth far below that of the philosophic reason. And so he was a revelation, never before made of the *Father*.

April 19. *Tuesday.*

WHEN God has once given us to know himself, this greatest of all gifts he gives forever. After years of trivial outward life, there comes some day of trial, sorrow, bitter disappointment, remorse for wasted years, life empty of any great purpose. Then in the midst of our sense of utter helplessness, we are led to see that God loves us still, that his arms are around us; that he can forgive to the uttermost all our folly, and in that sight we begin a new life.

April 20. *Wednesday.*

AFTER this, no matter what comes, we have something we can never lose again,—a faith in God's love which nothing can quench, one anchor which holds fast in every storm.

April 21. *Thursday.*

IF these poor hearts of ours cannot forget our children, does the Infinite Heart of the Universe cease to remember them? If we do not love them less because of their weakness and incapacity, how much more shall the Father of their spirits look down on them with inexhaustible love! Say not that his infinite tenderness can be exhausted, when ours, so much poorer, does not faint nor grow weary.

April 22. *Friday. Birthday of James Freeman.*

WE look back and remember the saints, the generous souls we have known; and their beauty makes the best part of our life. If we have any faith, courage, or generosity, it is inspired or at least fed by their lives. They mediate to us God's effulgent goodness.

April 23. *Saturday.*

WHEN you know God as he is, you have come to yourself; you are safe. All your faculties unfold in their true order: life is sweet; duty is attractive; truth is inspiration; love is divine; death

"Is but a covered way
That opens into light."

April 24. *Sunday.*

WE must live from these great convictions. We must believe in God as our Father, not as blind force or stern law. We must trust in the all-conquering power of truth and love, and support every effort to advance the kingdom of heaven in this world.

April 25. *Monday.*

THERE is but one fatal heresy It is that which limits the power, the wisdom, or the love of God.

April 26. *Tuesday.*

DRAW near then, in faith, to this great overflowing fountain of heavenly compassion. God has put into our hearts his spirit, to enable us all to say, "Our Father!"

April 27. *Wednesday.*

LET nothing separate us from his love,—neither life nor death, nor our own folly and sin, our own weakness and ignorance, our own doubt and unbelief.

April 28. *Thursday.*

NOW we see in the universe, not only beauty and wonder, power, order, law, but—interfused with and penetrating all things—that highest of all, a divine love. Hold fast to it; let it not go, for it is your life!

April 29. *Friday.*

TO trust in the Father's love is the gospel within the gospel. It is the inmost secret of Christ; it is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

April 30. *Saturday.*

NOT the vast laws to whose control is given
The blades of grass, just springing from the sod,
And stars within the unsounded depths of heaven,
Can touch the spirit hid with Christ in God;
For naught that he has made, below, above,
Can part us from his love.

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James Freeman Clarke

A

MONTHLY CALENDAR

FOR

1910

MAY

MAN

James Freeman Clarke

A

MONTHLY CALENDAR

FOR

1910

MAY

MAN

BOSTON
GEO. H. ELLIS CO., 272 CONGRESS STREET
1910

MAN.

May 1. *Sunday.*

THE earth is God's school, where men are sent to be educated for the world beyond. The principal teachers in this school are three,—nature, events, and labor.

May 2. *Monday.*

ONE chamber of the mind is fitted for thought, another for affection, another for earnest work, another for imagination, and the whole to be the temple of God.

May 3. *Tuesday.*

DO not forget that far more sacred than any consecrated bread is that true bread which came down from heaven,—that sacred, divine gift of the soul which God has placed in man.

May 4. *Wednesday.*

GOD'S free, fatherly love has made all men to become his spiritual children. His grace has predestined us, before the foundation of the world, to become wholly his, free from sin, and full of truth and holiness.

May 5. *Thursday. Ascension Day.*

JESUS has ascended higher and higher; but he is the same tender friend, the same forgiving and merciful master, the same perfect harmony of awful truth and sweetest love, before whom the Pharisee trembled and to whom the little children crept.

May 6. *Friday.*

IT is not true to say that man by nature is a child of sin. Man by nature is a child of God, and only by disease is a child of sin. Sin is abnormal. Goodness is man's proper and healthy condition.

May 7. *Saturday.*

MAN comes to himself when he turns himself to God; and, when he does this, he will bring forth fruits and flowers; he will become full, through and through, with productive life; he will be the son of man, because son of God.

May 8. *Sunday.*

THE sermon might be stupid,—then I should not listen to it. The prayers might not suit me,—then I should pass them by. One would stand before me, greater than the Temple,—my brother man, bowed before my father, God.

May 9. *Monday.*

MULTITUDES are abandoned of men, but none abandoned by God. His love pursues, surrounds, calls after them. He sees the first dawning light in their heart; he sees them when yet a great way off.

May 10. *Tuesday.*

THE sense of moral obligation is in every human soul. This holy monitor, this careful inspector, this sacred, solemn voice, is from grace, from love. It is the Father's arm, held round every child to keep him safe from evil.

May 11. *Wednesday.*

THE soul of man,—that power of aspiration, capacity for progress, sense of right, knowledge of infinite truth, fitness for boundless love and thought and action. Do not let even the crumbs of this fall to the ground.

May 12. *Thursday.*

OF all holy things on earth, nothing is so holy in the sight of God as the soul of man.

May 13. *Friday.*

THE heart which is illuminated by inspired thought can read beforehand the immortal and infinite quality in the soul,—that which is to make the future angel.

May 14. *Saturday.*

JESUS came to show that religion was made for man, not man for religion; the Sabbath for man, not man for the Sabbath; the Bible for man, not man for the Bible; the Church for man, not man for the Church.

May 15. *Sunday. Whitsunday.*

WHEN we say that "we believe in the Holy Spirit," we announce the great hope for the future. All is to come right at last. Evil is to be overcome by good. Progress is the law of the universe, and progress will never end.

May 16. *Monday.*

THOUGH many are obliged to say, "No man cares for my soul," yet there is one who always cares for the souls of his children. *God* cares for souls evermore. All souls are his, and he will not let them go.

May 17. *Tuesday.*

"ALL souls are MINE." Blessed declaration of the God-inspired Ezekiel! All souls,—the great and the humble, the wise and the ignorant, the soul of the Apostle John and the soul of Judas Iscariot,—all belong to God.

May 18. *Wednesday.*

EVERY soul has an indestructible idea of right and wrong, producing the feeling of obligation on the one hand, of penitence and remorse on the other. Every soul has the tendency to worship, to look up to some spiritual power higher than itself.

May 19. *Thursday.*

WILL God allow this soul so carefully provided with infinite faculties to go to waste? The man who buried his lord's talent was rebuked: will God bury his own talent, having made the soul for himself?

May 20. *Friday.*

GOD having made the soul for goodness, is also educating it for goodness. The soul, which belongs to God by creation, will also belong to him by education and culture.

May 21. *Saturday.*

EVERY soul is endowed with the gift of freedom, made capable of choosing between life and death, good and evil; every soul is endowed with reason, with a capacity for knowledge; and especially is every soul endowed with the faculty of improvement and progress.

May 22. Sunday. Trinity Sunday.

THAT which accepts Father, Son, and Spirit; means, end, and substance; Christ, the way to the Father; the belief which does not destroy the past creed, but fulfils it in a higher form,—this alone can permanently satisfy human wants.

May 23. Monday.

THE gospel says to us that all that has been given us is only the preparation for a deeper and fuller life of love which God means to give to all of us, on the condition of faith.

May 24. Tuesday.

TRUST in God: do not doubt his nearness, his influence, his good will. Believe that what he has begun he means to carry on and finish.

May 25. Wednesday.

FOR all souls God has provided this costly education. What shall we infer from it? . . . When God disciplines us by severe toil and sharp sorrow, we may believe that he is thus forming us for a great career by and by.

May 26. Thursday.

THUS does God love all souls with a universal, unwearied, untired affection. Thus did Christ love all souls, gathering around him, by his deep interest in that vital centre of life, publicans, Pharisees, and sinners, the pious and the profane.

May 27. *Friday.*

ALL souls belong to God by redemption; the work of Christ is for all. The light streaming from his cross reveals in every soul a priceless treasure, dear to God, which he will not willingly lose.

May 28. *Saturday.*

IF we are Christians, we shall love all souls; calling no man common or unclean; believing in the brotherhood of the race; finding something good in every one,—a vital seed of nobleness in the most deadened bosom.

May 29. *Sunday.*

WE are willing recklessly to injure or ruin our own soul for the most trifling gratification; but, in so doing, we destroy that which belongs to God and which he prizes most highly.

May 30. *Monday. Memorial Day.*

THEY shall teach coming generations, if perchance we tend once more in times of peace and prosperity to forget it, that there is in us all something higher than self-love; that God has made us all with power to go joyfully to suffer in a good cause.

May 31. *Tuesday.*

GOD will take care of what is his: he will leave no child orphaned. Those who are trodden down and forsaken in this world, he watches their sorrowful lives, and will cause them to bring forth fruit at last.

C553

James Freeman Clark

A

MONTHLY CALENDAR

FOR

1910

JUNE

FAITH

James Freeman Clarke

A

MONTHLY CALENDAR

FOR

1910

JUNE

FAITH

BOSTON
GEO. H. ELLIS CO., 272 CONGRESS STREET
1910

FAITH.

June 1. *Wednesday.*

WITHOUT faith in the immortal progress of the soul, it does not seem worth while to pursue human improvement here. We need the conviction of our infinite destiny to make our finite life worth living.

June 2. *Thursday.*

FAITH is the happy consciousness that God is around us with his perpetual care, beneath us with his supreme power, above us with his providential blessing, within us with his constant inspiration.

June 3. *Friday.*

FAITH is the golden key which unlocks this splendid treasury, the human soul. Whatever is right and good, whatever the instinct of the heart tells us to do, believe that we are able to do it, and we can do it.

June 4. *Saturday.*

WE have time enough, opportunity enough, faculty enough, for everything. One thing only we need, and that is faith in the nature God has given us, its capacities and possibilities.

June 5. *Sunday.*

SUNDAY should not be for mere church-going nor for mere amusement. It should rest both body and soul, mind and heart, preparing us to go to our work next day in a better spirit, with new hope, courage, devotion to principle, faith in God, love to man.

June 6. *Monday.*

THE weakest of all things, perhaps, is scepticism. Unless a man has some fixed, clear convictions, he drifts helplessly through the world.

June 7. *Tuesday.*

DO not despise the sceptic; but, if you have any faith, help him to it. Sympathize with him, for some of his disease is in us all. We all of us are obliged to pray, "Lord, I believe: help thou mine unbelief."

June 8. *Wednesday.*

WHEN the dearest friends go from us,—father, mother, child, wife,—behold! the heavens are opened. We are lifted to a grander vision and purpose. The angels surround us. The air is full of holy memories and great hopes.

June 9. *Thursday.*

WE are saved by faith and also by works. If we had not faith, we should not have the courage to work: if we did not work, our faith would soon die,—for faith without work is dead.

June 10. *Friday.*

IF we carry in our hearts wherever we go an unfailing trust that God is around us, and that he is always ready to come into our hearts, we shall find a priesthood in nature, in events, in life, and we shall carry that holy and sanctifying influence to others.

June 11. *Saturday.*

FROM faith in man we rise to faith in God. This is trust, that the universe is based on goodness and love; that all things work together for good; that God loves all his children; that the misery and wickedness of the world are to end in peace and joy.

June 12. *Sunday.*

WE live between two worlds,—the world of things seen and temporal and the world of things unseen and eternal. We walk by sight, and we walk by faith: every one, every day, lives by both of these faculties.

June 13. *Monday.*

IT is not by dropping Christ that we can reach God or live in the Holy Spirit; for through him we have access, by one Spirit, to the Father.

June 14. *Tuesday.*

EVERY act of faith in God increases our faith in him. To him who hath shall be given. He who waits on the Lord will renew his strength. We do not increase our faith by argument, but by exercise. As life advances, our faith ought to deepen and strengthen.

June 15. *Wednesday.*

THERE is nothing so blessed as the habit of sincere, simple prayer. It lifts us above the troubles of daily life; it renews strength and hope; it helps us to escape from selfishness to love; it enables us to sit in heavenly places with Christ.

June 16. *Thursday.*

EVERY throb of disinterested love, every sincere struggle to do good, makes us, as the apostle says, "partakers of the divine nature." This is why Jesus says, "He who believes in me shall never die," and "He who believes in me has everlasting life abiding in him."

June 17. *Friday.*

EVERY moment in which we obey the law of right and deny a temptation to do wrong translates us out of time into eternity. Then we come in contact with God.

June 18. *Saturday.*

LET us lift up our hearts, let us be bold and brave in our faith, that, when we are weak, we may become strong, and do all things, bear all things, become all things, through Him who strengthens us.

June 19. *Sunday.*

LOOK up, poor, trembling heart; look up, and see God near. Look up, hard heart, and feel the soft showers of divine grace; become as little children, be born anew, every day, into a fresh inspiration, faith, and hope; and so enter every day the kingdom of heaven!

June 20. *Monday.*

DO you know of any case of vice or sorrow which it seems almost impossible to relieve or cure? See if God will not work a miracle through your mind and heart, giving your actions and words a power not their own.

June 21. Tuesday.

IT is not enough that I passed through some experience and repented and was converted and born again last year. I must repent to-day; I must be converted to-day; I must be born again to-day.

June 22. Wednesday.

EVERY noble act of devotion to truth, every pure life unstained with evil, every word of pity, every instance of forgiving goodness, helps us to a better faith in that divine and eternal goodness which has no variableness or shadow of turning.

June 23. Thursday.

THERE are many things which we believe, not because of any argument, but by the exercise of the faculty appropriate to the thing. The affectionate man believes in love, the generous man in generosity, the religious man in God.

June 24. Friday.

CULTIVATE the musical organ, and you become convinced of the reality of music. Cultivate the organs of faith and hope, and you see the reality of a future life. It becomes part of your own existence, something that no sceptical argument can touch.

June 25. Saturday.

IN our best hours we believe firmly in immortality. We walk then by faith in things unseen and eternal. We fully trust the eternal goodness.

June 26. Sunday.

WE believe in the Holy Spirit when we believe that we are not orphans, left desolate by our heavenly Father, but that he is "waiting to be gracious," waiting to help us, to inspire and cheer and sustain us, to encourage and comfort us.

June 27. Monday.

BELIEF in immortality is a part of that inward experience which we call knowledge. It deepens with this Christian experience; and, as we grow in faith and love, trust and hope, so we pray more and realize more the presence of God, we become more certain of the resurrection.

June 28. Tuesday.

"GOD loves a cheerful giver." God loves us when we are cheerful in our sacrifice; cheerful in our trial; cheerful in our loneliness, bereavement, sorrow; cheerful even in our struggle with sin,—knowing that we shall come off more than conquerors through him who loved us.

June 29. Wednesday.

SCEPTICISM finds no meaning in life; but faith, hope, and love find life very full of meaning.

June 30. Thursday.

WE forget our opinions; but the faith, hope, and love which have grown up in us by all the lessons of Providence, the sight of God and eternal things which we have gained, these do not pass away.

C553

James Freeman Clarke

A

MONTHLY CALENDAR

FOR

1910

JULY

HOPE

James Freeman Clarke

A

MONTHLY CALENDAR

FOR

1910

JULY

HOPE

BOSTON
Geo. H. Ellis Co., 272 Congress Street
1910

HOPE.

July 1. *Friday.*

THE power which moves the world is hope. An anxious, doubtful, timid man can accomplish little. Fear unnerves us: hope inspires us.

July 2. *Saturday.*

TO cultivate and strengthen our hope, we must increase our faith in goodness and a God of love. We must have faith in the true God, and that is essentially faith in goodness.

July 3. *Sunday.*

WHERE the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. Instead of regulations, we have principles. Whatever refreshes the soul, recreates it, fills it with peace and hope, is right. Whatever leaves it anxious, dispirited, weak, is wrong, even though it is church-going.

July 4. *Monday.*

IN place of a nation hampered and fettered by evil institutions, a great and noble Christian republic, with its face lifted to the future, and the rising sun of coming centuries of human progress glowing around its brow as an immortal halo of glory.

July 5. *Tuesday.*

FAITH in God as goodness inspires faith in ourselves, and therefore hope that we are made for something, meant for something, and that by perseverance we can accomplish something. Thus faith in God is the root and the strength of all sure hope.

July 6. *Wednesday.*

THE path of progress for each individual soul lies along the pathway of hope. This is the way of salvation.

July 7. *Thursday.*

WITH hope at the centre of the soul, all things become alive. It insures the progress which it predicts.

July 8. *Friday.*

WHATEVER may be our fault, our besetting sin, God has given us some power by which to overcome it.

July 9. *Saturday.*

WE need a great hope for our inspiration. Man is too great to be satisfied with only earthly expectations. Earthly and heavenly hopes must go together, in order that either shall be sufficient.

July 10. *Sunday.*

JESUS, though a Jew, was less particular in keeping outwardly the Jewish Sabbath than many Christians are in keeping the Christian Sabbath, which is no Sabbath at all, but the blessed day of our dear friend, which we keep best by being loving, generous, thankful and good natured, cheerful and happy.

July 11. *Monday.*

OUR Christian faith is born with us, and gives us an unconscious and involuntary joy. We look at the world with a glad expectation, we look to the future with a happy hope, which we should not have if Jesus had not been born.

July 12. *Tuesday.*

IN this life evil is to be opposed constantly, untiringly, and with all our force. But to do this we must work in faith, not doubt, in hope, not fear. To have courage to oppose evil, we must hope to conquer it.

July 13. *Wednesday.*

REJOICE always, for God is always near; and his support will never fail. Rejoice! for it is good and right to hope; and without hope we are without God in the world.

July 14. *Thursday.*

REJOICE always! not merely when you are well and strong and doing right, but when the clouds of evil and wrong close around you and darken your day.

July 15. *Friday.*

HOPE will continue in the other life; and this means that there will be progress hereafter as well as here. To hope means to look forward to something better; but, unless that something better can be reached, the hope must perish. Therefore, continued hope implies continued progress.

July 16. *Saturday.*

HOPE means ever-increasing knowledge, activity, power; ever-increasing capacity for spiritual improvement; a never-ceasing ascent toward God,—powers growing more angelic, activity becoming more divine. All this is hinted at in the statement that hope *abides*.

July 17. *Sunday.*

LET Christian men and women, who have happy homes and every opportunity for recreation on other days, seek to bring suitable pleasure to those whose lives through the week are hard and empty. Let them try to make Sunday a bright and happy day for all.

July 18. *Monday.*

UNTIL we attain hope in the divine supremacy and ultimate triumph of good in the universe, we are lost souls,—dead souls,—dead while we seem to live. Without hope there is no spring of vital power in the human heart which can carry it forward.

July 19. *Tuesday.*

THE hope which deceives is that which promises us future good with no co-operation of ours. We think to have the end without using the means. We trust in luck, fortune, genius, not in thought and work.

July 20. *Wednesday.*

ALL great men have lived by hope. Not what they saw, but what they believed in, made their strength.

July 21. *Thursday.*

THE reformer rejoices in hope: he is ridiculed, bitterly opposed, often fails, but is never discouraged, never unhappy. It has been my fortune to know many reformers in my life, and all were happy men. Persecuted, they were not forsaken; cast down, they were not destroyed.

July 22. Friday.

CAUTION and hope are both necessary to progress. A man who has too much caution and too little hope is easily discouraged. Better have too much hope, and try and fail, than not to try at all.

July 23. Saturday.

FEAR of evil may keep men from going backward, but only hope of something better can carry them on.

July 24. Sunday.

IF the Christian Sabbath means inward peace and rest, whatever disturbs that is Sabbath-breaking.

July 25. Monday.

THE grandeur, tenderness, harmony, variety of nature, are divine words, in which are life; and this life is the light of man. It is not necessary to visit Niagara or the Alps or the Yosemite Valley, in order to be fed by this heavenly food.

July 26. Tuesday.

NATURE is not merely a house and farm for us to live in, or a picture gallery for us to amuse ourselves with, or a museum of curiosities for us to study: the poet of nature, if he be a true, divinely inspired poet, shows us our Father in everything.

July 27. Wednesday.

YOU would not throw a piece of bread from the communion table upon the floor to be trampled on, for it has been sanctified by love and prayer. But all nature is thus consecrated, and becomes sacred when we see the finger of God in it.

July 28. Thursday.

THIS alone is true friendship: to see what is good deep down in another's soul, to help that upward into life, and enable it to conquer outward frivolity and evil.

July 29. Friday.

IT is hope which inspires courage, which is the spring of progress, without which progress will never take place; hope toward God; hope full of immortality, which rejoices in the coming glory of God; hope born of experience; hope which makes not ashamed.

July 30. Saturday.

UNHAPPILY, Christians have not always held to this high hope. They have allowed themselves to doubt the perfect love of the Father and to relapse into the paganism of the earlier ages.

July 31. Sunday.

THE living experience and the deep convictions of the human heart are always a sure word of prophecy of the glory which is to be revealed; and the life which comes now from God and Christ is the promise and assurance of that which is to come hereafter.

James Freeman Clarke

A

MONTHLY CALENDAR

FOR

1910

AUGUST

LOVE

James Freeman Clarke

A

MONTHLY CALENDAR

FOR

1910

AUGUST

LOVE

BOSTON
GEO. H. ELLIS CO., 272 CONGRESS STREET
1910

LOVE

August 1. *Monday.*

WE live also by love. He who loves no one and is loved by no one is only half alive. We need the daily bread of human affection.

August 2. *Tuesday.*

ALL love is of grace. It is never deserved. Nobody ever deserved to be loved; but being loved makes us more deserving than anything else can.

August 3. *Wednesday.*

ALL human love is typical of divine love. Love is love, whether its object be God or man. It is that miracle by which we are able to live out of ourselves in another life.

August 4. *Thursday.*

LOVE also makes life rich and full. Passion, appetite, desire, devastate the soul, and leave it a desert; but love, which goes out of itself,—this keeps "the world's unwithered countenance fresh as on creation's day."

August 5. *Friday.*

LOVE, therefore, joining hands with work and faith, makes our life rich and full. These three, neither of them alone: work which is done in love; love which is born of faith.

August 6. *Saturday.*

HIGH friendships, noble loves,—these are words which proceed out of the mouth of God. Not passion, not whim, not fancy, not a mere clinging habit of dependence.

August 7. *Sunday.*

NOTHING is so solid as love. It sometimes seems to be the only substantial thing in the universe. Perhaps it is so; for God is love, and God alone has real self-existing being. We live from him as we receive his love into our souls.

August 8. *Monday.*

THE head believes in God by means of argument: the heart sees him. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." The intellect reasons about immortality: the heart knows it.

August 9. *Tuesday.*

WE cannot know God until we love God. Jesus teaches us to know God by showing him to us as our Father and Friend.

August 10. *Wednesday.*

WE despise our fellow-men only when we lose faith in God and Christ. But, when we remember that the Infinite Goodness made and is making all things, then we call no man common or unclean.

August 11. *Thursday.*

THERE is nothing trivial to the illuminated eye and heart of faith. He who says to his brother, "Thou fool!" is in danger of hell-fire. He is, in fact, already in hell-fire; for the feeling of contempt for his brother is itself the spirit of the pit.

August 12. *Friday.*

I CALL it a sacramental occasion when any soul full of the love of God and man strives to help another soul,—to purify, to elevate it, to bring it to God.

August 13. *Saturday.*

SOMETHING more convincing than argument, more weighty than reason, makes of that hour a sacramental hour, and of that office a priesthood. Something beyond the meaning of words passes from heart to heart. The life of God flows to us through such channels. Deeper than all depth, higher than all height, the Spirit comes through these human hearts to ours.

August 14. *Sunday.*

WHY give ourselves grudgingly, and of necessity, to the love of God? Why hesitate and tremble, and think it is some great sacrifice we are making, when we enter into the sweet peace of our heavenly Father's tenderness and grace?

August 15. *Monday.*

WHEN God gives us love, he gives it forever. Superficial sympathies, based on accident, on proximity, or the common interests of the hour, are fugitive; but the love which sees what is best in us, and cares for that, is something which cannot pass away.

August 16. *Tuesday.*

IF we love that which is best in each other, not the fugitive though seducing charm, but the truth and sincerity and earnest feeling in each other's souls, our love to each other helps, and does not hinder.

August 17. *Wednesday.*

IF we vitalize and encourage our love by conscience and faith, if by it we help each other nearer to truth, duty, and God, then our love for each other becomes immortal. This love defies accident, absence, change.

August 18. *Thursday.*

I KNOW those whom I love, and I know no one else. Those who love me, and no others, know me. Sharp, cold, criticising intellect knows nothing as it ought. Its knowledge is empty; it rings hollow. It is sounding brass and tinkling cymbal.

August 19. *Friday.*

IT is only love and insight which show us all we have ever done. Cold sagacity misjudges us: mere sympathy, feeble good-nature, soothes, but does not essentially help us.

August 20. Saturday.

THAT which makes this earth seem solid, and not empty, is not the rocks and mountains that are in it, but the love that is in it. The only really solid thing in this universe is love.

August 21. Sunday.

LOVE makes our life really life. This makes us immortal while we are here. This makes us sure that death is no end, but only a beginning, to us and all we love.

August 22. Monday.

THE heart has a deeper wisdom than the head. Its faith, its hope, and its love predict and assure a better future than the mere intellect can foresee.

August 23. Tuesday.

THEREFORE is love also a true prophet. It foresees and foretells a better future. It looks through the darkness of the present,—through pain, disappointment, sorrow, trial, bereavement, loneliness,—and sees all things working together for good.

August 24. Wednesday.

THE heart, wiser than the head, sees through the surface to the central life, is a prophet telling what is to come. I see in my friend not his outward, external, superficial habit of thought and action, but the better nature below, repressed for a time, striving upward.

August 25. Thursday.

WHEN God gives us this best of friendship, he gives it forever. People sometimes ask uneasily whether they shall know their friends again after death, and love them again in another life. But what is immortality, if love is not immortal?

August 26. Friday.

LOVE feels, by a sure instinct, the inmost character, and so is wiser than wisdom. You cannot know any one until you love him, because until then you know him only externally: the secret of his life you do not know.

August 27. Saturday.

LOVE illuminated by truth, truth warmed through and through by love,—these perform for us the most blessed thing that one human being can do for another. They show us what we really are, what we have been, can be, may be, shall be.

August 28. Sunday.

I understand why Jesus, when he called a disciple, wished him to come at once. It was the test of the motive. Love does not hesitate. Love leaves all, and follows.

August 29. Monday.

TO convert a man from his opinions, you must sympathize with him, and by sympathy understand what he means, see the truth in his error, lead him by the truth he already holds toward some higher truth or some different truth which he has not yet reached.

August 30. *Tuesday.*

BENEATH all his actions is the man himself, with his hope, his aim, his purpose, his conviction, his longing, his sin and remorse, his faith and struggle. *This* is the real man, and you can never know him till you have begun to love him.

August 31. *Wednesday.*

O SWEET and heavenly souls, who have had Christ formed within you, how have you in every age been the sunshine, the joy, the hope of the world! Strict with yourselves, gentle and generous with others, ye have been the sacred leaven in the church and the world.

James Freeman Clarke

A

MONTHLY CALENDAR

FOR

1910

SEPTEMBER

TRUTH

James Freeman Clarke

A

MONTHLY CALENDAR

FOR

1910

SEPTEMBER

TRUTH

BOSTON
GEO. H. ELLIS CO., 272 CONGRESS STREET
1910

TRUTH.

September 1. Thursday.

EVERY kind of truth, also, is a word which comes from God, to make us more alive. We live by feeding on new truth. The mind needs to be nourished by new thoughts.

September 2. Friday.

TO testify to the truth,—to be a burning and shining light in the world; and yet to do this not ostentatiously, but modestly; not sharply, but kindly; not in severity, but in love,—if the spirit of Christ dwells in us, a spirit of truth and love, we can do it.

September 3. Saturday.

THIS is the daily exercise of the Christian,—to utter faithfully, by action and word, his convictions, in the presence of those who do not share them; to testify to the truth, whether men will hear or forbear.

September 4. Sunday.

THE church should not be a place for doctrinal controversy nor oratory, nor discussions of questions of politics or finance, but for spiritual life and growth, for looking at the foundations of Christian duty, for communing reverently with the divine Father and eternal Friend.

September 5. Monday.

IF hearing the truth is our food, speaking it is our exercise.

September 6. *Tuesday.*

HE who can stand firm in his convictions and be loyal to his insights is able also to be loyal to his duties. Having done all, he can stand.

September 7. *Wednesday.*

A SHALLOW naturalism and a narrow theology may be at war; but a true science and a broad Christianity lend to each other a helping hand.

September 8. *Thursday.*

MEN who are in earnest are apt to be a little one-sided, narrow, and fanatical. But the Lord uses such agents to move the world. Do not oppose them, but endeavor to moderate them, and, as Paul did, to show, if you can, a more excellent way.

September 9. *Friday.*

MEN will not relinquish error until one comes who can see the truth in the error, and give them that truth in a purer form. This was what Christ did. He took up into the gospel all that was true in heathenism and Judaism.

September 10. *Saturday.*

WE see that only those really grow up into a manly stature who have the courage and loyalty which make them speak the truth which they have seen.

September 11. *Sunday.*

MAN is made for progress, but there are two kinds of progress. One kind consists in going forward from one thing to another, dropping the past in order to attain the future. But a higher kind is that which gathers up the past into the present.

September 12. *Monday.*

ALL truth is permanent: it can never pass away. The heart and mind of man are so made that he clings with passionate love to all realized truth, and will hold it, though mixed with ever so much error.

September 13. *Tuesday.*

THE truth which in our calm and sober hours we have accepted we ought not to let go, because in hours of trial and darkness we cannot see it. Cling to it still, and you will see it again by and by.

September 14. *Wednesday.*

A MAN is disloyal if, having seen a truth, he lets it go through indifference, if curiosity is stronger in him than conviction, if he loves novelty more than reality.

September 15. *Thursday.*

IT is not progress to throw away all I know to-day in order to learn something else to-morrow. To advance in knowledge is not wholly to forget the past, but to take it with us.

September 16. *Friday.*

ONE source of scepticism is in the false idea that we are passive in our belief. It is not so. When God shows us a truth, it is our duty to cling to it.

September 17. *Saturday.*

ONE conscientious putting aside of prejudice, party feeling, private interest, in order to correct our possible errors, is valued far more by God than a lazy assent to a whole bushel of propositions, be they never so true.

September 18. *Sunday.*

ALL the forms of Christianity are means, and not ends. Going to church does not make a Christian. Being baptized does not make a Christian. Professing Christianity does not make a Christian. Only loving God and man makes a Christian.

September 19. *Monday.*

THE worst thing about a narrow orthodoxy is that it produces an equally narrow anti-orthodoxy.

September 20. *Tuesday.*

WHERE men differ, it is because they know in part and see in part: where they agree, it is because they supply the narrowness of their creed by the largeness of their love.

September 21. Wednesday.

CHRISTIANS differ because they are narrow. When they go deeper and rise higher, they come together; for they all believe in one God, one Christ, one Bible, one Law of Duty, one Church Universal, one Immortal Life, and one Holy Spirit.

September 22. Thursday.

NARROWNESS *judges* breadth: breadth *despises* narrowness. The man who considers himself an advanced thinker looks with contempt on what seems to him stupid conservatism. The servant of the letter denounces as an infidel and a heretic whoever walks in the freedom of the spirit.

September 23. Friday.

LET us not judge each other, and let us not despise each other, but open our hearts to all the light and love which God shall send to us, knowing that we shall all stand before the judgment seat of the eternal truth of God.

September 24. Saturday.

ONE day we shall have little cause to be proud, whether of our orthodox opinions or of our rational Christianity, but shall be grateful if God has helped us to be anything or to do anything for him.

September 25. Sunday.

THROUGH the Jewish nation God has bestowed on mankind four gifts of supreme importance: the doctrine of monotheism, as taught by Moses; the gospel of love, as taught by Jesus; the Bible; and the rest of the seventh day.

September 26. Monday.

THE Church must give its truth to others, in order to feel the value and the reality of that truth itself. We deeply realize the worth of truth only when we communicate it to others.

September 27. Tuesday.

OH, the sweetness of sweet words! Oh, the beauty of truth spoken in love! Happy the family where rising irritation is always calmed by the soft, tender voice which comes like balm to the wounded spirit! Happy the church where the minister is not so much a son of thunder as a son of consolation!

September 28. Wednesday.

THE highest truths may be close to us, but we must open our eyes to see them. Those who listened to Jesus himself did not always understand his sayings. Ignorance, prejudice, preconceived opinions, prevented them, and will prevent us, from seeing what is on the very face of the gospel.

September 29. *Thursday.*

ALL essential knowledge is born of life, and is the faith of the heart. "With the heart man believeth unto righteousness." Paul does not pray that Christ may dwell in the heads of the Ephesians, but in their hearts.

September 30. *Friday.*

PAUL says, "If there be knowledge, it shall pass away." Knowledge, in its outward form, passes away; but truth remains. The outward fact is forgotten, but the soul within the fact lasts. Beliefs change, truth remains.

James Freeman Clarke

A

MONTHLY CALENDAR

FOR

1910

OCTOBER

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

James Freeman Clarke

A

MONTHLY CALENDAR

FOR

1910

OCTOBER

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

BOSTON
GEO. H. ELLIS CO., 272 CONGRESS STREET
1910

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

October 1. *Saturday.*

THE only condition of membership in the true Church is to believe that God is your Father: then you at once see that all who believe this with you are your brothers.

October 2. *Sunday.*

THE simple reading of the New Testament every week tends to educate the young to righteousness, to fix in their minds a law of duty, which becomes at last an instinct of right doing. This is one great work which the Church does for society.

October 3. *Monday.*

PEOPLE are often troubled by the diversity of beliefs which prevail about religion. Why do they not go to Jesus himself? Why not ask what he taught, what he considered important?

October 4. *Tuesday.*

AS Christ reveals God to man by his life and words, so Christians by their lives and words must reveal Christ to their fellow-men.

October 5. *Wednesday.*

CHRISTIANITY is not only deeper, higher, broader, better than any other religion, but essentially different from every other in this: that its truth is so absolute and universal as to be fitted to become the religion of mankind.

October 6. *Thursday.*

CHRISTIANITY has received into itself all the good of many systems,—the philosophy of Greece, the laws of Rome, the mysticism of India, the monotheism of the Jews, the war between good and evil taught by Zoroaster, the Scandinavian faith in liberty and progress.

October 7. *Friday.*

TO say that Christianity is supernatural is to say not too much, but too little. Nor is it enough to say, "Christianity is the exclusively true religion." We must go farther, and maintain that it is the *inclusively* true religion.

October 8. *Saturday.*

ALL the prophets who have been since the world began, and all the civilizations of the past, have, like the wise men of the East, brought their gifts to the infant Messiah.

October 9. *Sunday.*

THE end of church-going is not to hear arguments, not to listen to an essay or go through a ceremony, but to be renewed in the spirit of our minds, to be bathed once more by the spirit of God, and so enter into rest.

October 10. *Monday.*

THE only progressive religion in the world to-day is Christianity. It unfolds itself into new forms, puts forth new branches, and makes every day a new heavens and a new earth.

October 11. *Tuesday.*

THE Church comes to itself when it ceases to dogmatize about doctrine, to make proselytes to its party, or to make converts by terror and persuasion,—when it devotes itself to showing God, the Father of Christ, to the heart, intellect, and conscience of man.

October 12. *Wednesday.*

THE real priest is the man who has the power of an endless life in his soul by which he can bring us nearer to God. We bless him who can make us see God. Who shall show us the way back to our Father? Whoever does this for us is our real priest, after the power of a spiritual life.

October 13. *Thursday.*

CHRIST should look love through the eyes of the church on mankind; should heal with the hands of the church. The church should be his feet to go about doing good; the church should be his voice, speaking pardon and peace to the sinner.

October 14. *Friday.*

HOW be at once brave in facing evil and gentle in our treatment of the sinner? It is only by entering more and more into the mind of Christ. It is by having faith in the power and nearness of his spirit. It is by living, as he did, in the presence of the Father.

October 15. *Saturday.*

ALL belief in Christ and Christianity founded on hearsay, which flesh and blood have revealed, is unstable.

October 16. *Sunday.*

I BELIEVE that people will always go to church because they will always feel the need of it and the good of it. It will last, not because it is a custom or a duty, but because it satisfies an everlasting need of the soul.

October 17. *Monday.*

NOT till we come to God ourselves, by personal submission to the law of right, personal trust in his all-sufficient love, do we have any solid Christianity. After that, if we speak, we speak what we know and testify what we have seen.

October 18. *Tuesday.*

IDEAS which never have been incorporated, never have been put in action, are as yet not vital. They do not tend to progress. But whenever an idea is acted out, whenever a great truth is really lived, it becomes a source of life to multitudes.

October 19. *Wednesday.*

CHRISTIANITY is not an abstract creed, a system of thought; it is not a philosophical system,—it is the personal influence of a great soul.

October 20. *Thursday.*

THE work of the gospel is to show us that Christ is "Immanuel," God with us; that heaven and hell are here; that Christ saves us only as he is a present Saviour; that immortality must begin now; that we must have eternal life abiding in us while in this world.

October 21. *Friday.*

ONE of the advantages of true religion is that it gives perspective to life. A religious person laying stress on the essential, vital facts of the soul is able to look with charity on the smaller faults of man.

October 22. Saturday.

HE who sympathizes with Christ in caring for the poor, the ignorant, the suffering, the sinful, and seeks to help Christ in this his great work, comes to know Christ.

October 23. Sunday.

IF the first part of the day is given to strengthening our souls by religious truth, the second part might be given to helping the souls of others.

October 24. Monday.

HUMAN society constitutes another word of God by which we live. God has made men different, has divided them by language, race, class, creed, culture, that by this very variety they may feed each other's souls.

October 25. Tuesday.

ALL the arguments levelled against Christianity, from those of Celsus in the second century to those of Robert Ingersoll in the nineteenth, are directed against its letter, against creeds, forms, usages, the letter of the Bible, the externals and unessentials of the system.

October 26. Wednesday.

THE rock on which the Church is founded is not a creed nor a miracle, not a pope nor a priest, not superstition nor ceremony nor habit, but the everlasting need felt by the earthly child for his heavenly Father.

October 27. Thursday.

WHAT God has joined together let no man put asunder. God has joined together reason and religion, responsibility and freedom, faith and works, scientific progress and spiritual growth, the love of God and the love of man.

October 28. Friday.

OUT of a deep, broad, living Christian experience shall come that future Church of Christ, which shall combine variety with unity, works with faith; which shall be broad enough to adapt itself to all human diversity, deep enough to satisfy all human needs.

October 29. Saturday.

THE Christian Church, united by the holy spirit of humanity and brotherly love, will be at one; the Catholic no longer hating the Protestant, nor the orthodox despising the heretic, but working together in the great cause of human improvement. That hour cometh and now is.

October 30. *Sunday.*

I CONSIDER it the chief object of the Christian pulpit to encourage those whom life discourages. I think every Sunday should inspire us with new heart for work, every sermon and act of worship renew our energy and put fresh enthusiasm into our souls for the great battle of existence.

October 31. *Monday.*

THE hour cometh and now is when Christianity is to be seen in the street, in the shop, in all human life, and God to be felt as "all in all."

James Freeman Clarke

A

MONTHLY CALENDAR

FOR

1910

NOVEMBER

EVERY-DAY RELIGION

James Freeman Clarke

A

MONTHLY CALENDAR

FOR

1910

NOVEMBER

EVERY-DAY RELIGION

BOSTON
GEO. H. ELLIS CO., 272 CONGRESS STREET
1910

November 1. *Tuesday.*

O BEAUTIFUL world! World most full of beauty which God has given us, why do we not enjoy thee more? Why are we so restless and discontented and unhappy, at war with ourselves, with those around us, even at war with Providence, when it seems as if we had only to open our hearts to all this infinite tide of God's love, and be happy?

November 2. *Wednesday.*

THE phrenologists make reverence the religious organ. I think it one organ of religion, but not the only source of religion. It leads to worship, devotion, and the exercise of piety. But piety and devotion constitute only one part of religion.

November 3. *Thursday.*

THE sentiment of piety is sweet and holy, but religion is also action and thought. It rests on a deep conviction of the reality of God's being, of duty, of immortality. We must not suppose that one cannot be religious who has not, by nature, a love for worship, for religion comes to us in many ways.

November 4. *Friday.*

A PERSON to whom it is not natural to look up in adoration, who does not pray the prayer of sentiment, who has no tendency to natural piety, may be just

as real a Christian. He may come to God through conviction and conscience; he may pray to God because he sees that prayer helps him, gives him strength to do his duty, to resist temptation.

November 5. *Saturday.*

IF you have a good deal of natural piety, be thankful; but, if you have it not, be not discouraged. There are other ways of finding God.

November 6. *Sunday.*

WE do not want the Jewish Sabbath revived, for that is a day of restraint and gloom, and it was dropped by Christianity in the beginning. On the other hand, we do not want a Pagan and secular holy-day, sanctified by no sense of a divine presence and love. It should not be for mere church-going, on the one hand, nor for mere amusement, on the other. It should rest both the body and the soul, the mind and the heart. It should prepare us to go to our work next day in a better spirit, with new hope, courage, devotion to principle, faith in God, love to man. Real recreation is re-creation. It is what puts new life into all our faculties.

November 7. *Monday.*

THESE are the two handles always presented to us, and every day, if we listen, we shall hear God say to us, "Choose to-day which to take!" We can take hold, in

everything which befalls us, of the handle of doubt, of anxiety, of fault-finding, of fear, of pleasure, custom, expediency, personal gratification, and self-seeking, or we can take hold of the handle of trust, of hope, of candid, liberal judgment, of duty, personal conviction, right, and generous, self-forgetting good-will.

November 8. *Tuesday.*

IN the best society the best part of our nature grows, while among the flippant and the frivolous we, also, become small and empty. It is good to believe in heroes and heroism, in saints and martyrs. It is good to read and study the lives of the generous and disinterested, the pure in heart; those who suffer for righteousness' sake.

November 9. *Wednesday.*

USE and improve, or lose. This is the sentence pronounced on each of us in the physical, intellectual, and moral world. Use and improve your memory, your understanding, your judgment, or they will become feeble. Use and improve your conscience, or it grows torpid.

November 10. *Thursday.*

USE and improve the powers which look up to an infinite truth, beauty, and goodness, and they lift you toward these. Let them sleep, and they cannot see this kingdom of God, this divine element in the universe.

Nature reaches her hand to Revelation to maintain this law, and both with concurrent voice cry, "Use and improve, or lose."

November 11. *Friday.*

THE education of the conscience is of three kinds. It needs to be awakened, to be enlightened, and to be trained. It is awakened by being taught the obligations we owe to God and man; that man is under law; that no one has a right to do as he pleases, but that all are responsible to God and to the truth for every action of their lives.

November 12. *Saturday.*

IT is roused by the doctrine of the judgment to come, by being taught that all our lives are to be ultimately known and seen in the light of eternal truth, and that every man is to give an account of himself to God.

November 13. *Sunday.*

THE Lord's Day fulfils the Sabbath, taking all that is good of that. It fulfils the "Sunday," taking all that is good of the Pagan holiday. But it fulfils both in something higher. It fulfils the physical rest of the Jewish Sabbath by rest of the soul, by freedom from anxious doubts and fears. It fulfils Pagan pleasure by a deeper joy born of faith, hope, and love.

November 14. *Monday.*

LOOK for good, not evil, in all things. Cultivate the habit of seeking the best in every person and every event. Seek good, as Jesus sought it, everywhere; and, if we seek, we shall find. Faith in God is faith in goodness; and, conversely, faith in goodness is faith in God, and leads to him.

November 15. *Tuesday.*

DO always the best you can. Be not satisfied with doing as well to-day as you did yesterday, but look up to something higher and better. Look upon each new day which comes as an opening into a higher world and a better life. When an opportunity of doing good comes, think that God sends it.

November 16. *Wednesday.*

LET your amusements be inexpensive, so that many may share them. Let them be social and open, for whatever is open to all eyes is more likely to be innocent. Let them be such as do not leave you unfit for your duties, but which refresh your weary mind and body, so that you can return to your work with renewed strength.

November 17. *Thursday.*

REMEMBER this, that men need some sort of recreation; that, if they cannot have good amusements, they will have bad ones; and that therefore it is the duty of all, instead of merely condemning wrong and evil recreations, to seek to replace them by better ones.

November 18. *Friday.*

DO not look within, to see whether you have sinned against the Holy Ghost or whether your feelings are right; but look without, to see what you are doing for others, what you are saying, what your temper and spirit are to those about you. If the engine is working well and the vessel is running, you may assume that the boilers are in good order.

November 19. *Saturday.*

BUSINESS life, which is full of temptation to insincerity, has also an opposite influence. It often educates men to fidelity. If the great majority of men did not usually keep their engagements, business could not be carried on. There is a code of business honor which educates many men to truth in other things. To such men, business is a religious education.

November 20. *Sunday.*

THE best and highest of all influences is that which comes to us when we walk daily in the presence of our heavenly Father. What a difference it would make if we should, every morning, look up, open our hearts, and seek for guidance, good influence, a good spirit from that divine Power who is always waiting to be gracious!

November 21. *Monday.*

IT has often been the case that, while knaves have been ingenious in their rascality, good people have gone in a blind and helpless way about their good works. It has

become a proverb that religious people are easily imposed upon, that they have little knowledge of the world or of human nature. If their purpose is right, they are contented. They are apt to adopt this want of judgment as a rule, and to say, "Do right, and leave the result to God."

November 22. *Tuesday.*

BUT charitable people often give in a way to create more suffering than they relieve. Philanthropists go blindly on their way; patriots rush forward, inconsiderate of obstacles; religious people have a zeal for God, without knowledge.

November 23. *Wednesday.*

IT is not enough to *mean* to do good: we must accomplish something. Conscience, which only wishes to save its own soul, may say, "I will do right, and leave the result to God"; but love, which desires to help its neighbor also effectually, puts its mind, as well as its heart, into work.

November 24. *Thursday.*

EVEN the use of money may teach us higher things than prudence, economy, and judgment. We may also be educated in this way to generosity and benevolence.

November 25. Friday.

THE mistake made by many persons is to suppose that they can devote all their thought and energy for years to accumulation, and afterward learn how to use aright what has been thus gathered. It takes as much time and thought to learn how to spend money as to learn how to make money.

November 26. Saturday.

WHAT is heaven but to return to God, to cease from selfish ends, to give ourselves to true and noble purposes? Those who live pure and generous lives have tasted already "the powers of the world to come."

November 27. Sunday.

IT has been usual for preachers to speak of the temporal things which pass away as though they were therefore worthless. But they are of infinite worth, if they are the means of reaching that which shall abide. If we can change time into eternity, wealth into generosity, thought into knowledge, opportunities which pass away into faith, hope, and love which abide, then riches, talents, and all outward visible things have a divine value.

November 28. Monday.

THAT which can become an infinite good is itself almost an infinite good. We will not, then, despise these things which God lends us because they are not yet our own. We will bless him for the simple joys of every

day, the simple affections of time, the common, every-day work of life, the springs and summers which come and go, the money we make and spend, the business we transact, for all are parts of that Jacob's ladder which reaches from earth to heaven.

November 29. *Tuesday.*

THE greatest soul and the largest heart that ever lived on earth had for friends some of the simplest of men and women. How he loved those disciples, and loved them to the end, educating them to comprehend a very little of his thoughts, hopes, and purposes! Yet, what a gulf remained between his mind and theirs! But still he loved them,—the unstable, impetuous Peter, the sceptical Thomas, the ardent John. For his greatness enabled him to see in them the capacity which no others could see,—of becoming at last his apostles, missionaries, and martyrs.

November 30. *Wednesday.*

AND what he saw in them God sees in us. We also are weak, ignorant, full of errors, faults, and sins. We have faults of temper, faults of character; we are careless or selfish, or forgetful of our duties. But, if we are trying to be faithful, if we are beginning to do what is right, God sees in that small beginning a power which his grace will help to unfold into perfect truth and love.

James Freeman Clarke

A

MONTHLY CALENDAR

FOR

1910

DECEMBER

LIFE ETERNAL

James Freeman Clarke

A

MONTHLY CALENDAR

FOR

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DECEMBER

LIFE ETERNAL

BOSTON
GEO. H. ELLIS CO., 272 CONGRESS STREET
1910

LIFE ETERNAL.

December 1. Thursday.

I CANNOT hope to be saved in the future, except as I am saved now. Immortality must begin here. God is here; Christ is here; his Holy Spirit is here; all good angels are here; all truth is here; and I can be saved now by trusting in God as my Father and friend.

December 2. Friday.

OUR lives, no less than the life of the apostle, may be hid with Christ in God. We also are partakers of the divine nature. What he received, he received that he might impart it to his brethren.

December 3. Saturday.

HEAVEN below comes from the three elements which are to abide,—faith, hope, and love. Faith means the sight of the invisible reality which is below the passing appearance. It is the evidence of the reality of truth, goodness, wisdom. Faith, therefore, is the condition of knowledge.

December 4. Sunday.

OUR faith in immortality is therefore essentially faith in God. When Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many mansions," in the words "my Father" he gave the truest and best reason for faith in a future life.

December 5. *Monday.*

WE need no other argument for immortal life but the presence and power of God in the soul. And Jesus awakens this conviction and increases this faith in the divine presence and love. Therefore, he says, "Ye believe in God, believe also in me."

December 6. *Tuesday.*

WHENEVER we go out of ourselves and our own self-interest, we *are* immortal, we have eternal life abiding in us. The more we live so, the more certain we are of our own immortality and that of others.

December 7. *Wednesday.*

WE do not wish to have a future life made *probable:* we wish to know it. And Jesus never argues for immortality by our methods of reasoning. He beholds it by a mighty intuition, and speaks of it with a certainty which awakens our own deepest faith.

December 8. *Thursday.*

BY experience of outward things, we know the outward world; by inward experience, we know the world of infinite truth, beauty, and love. Jesus gave to mankind the impulse which has quickened in man these experiences, and so is still the best friend and helper of the human race.

December 9. *Friday.*

WE are in heaven already when we are full of love to God and man, in hell already when we lose that love. Heaven and hell are both in us, and all outward heavens and hells through which we may pass are only the reflections and supplements to our inward state.

December 10. *Saturday.*

JESUS says, "I am the Resurrection and the Life." The only sufficient evidence of future immortality is present immortality. He who lives now in the presence of eternal things,— God, truth, justice, infinite love, a perfect Providence,—he finds immortal life abiding in him.

December 11. *Sunday.*

GOD does not take away the Red Sea, nor the wilderness, nor Jordan, but goes with us, through them all, —a cloud by day, a pillar of fire by night. Nothing brings us so near to God as the sense of our spiritual and moral needs.

December 12. *Monday.*

THE door to any outward heaven lies through an inward heaven. If we do not first enter "the kingdom of heaven which is within us," we shall not enter any heaven above us or outside of us.

December 13. *Tuesday.*

WE know by our inward experience that we are the sons of God, therefore dear to our Father: therefore, having made us for himself, he will not let us die.

December 14. *Wednesday.*

THE Christian looks forward to the time when he shall fall asleep and wake again, surrounded by all whom he loves and who love him, and shall find the truth of what Plato and Milton said,—that what we call life is death, and what we call death is life.

December 15. *Thursday.*

THAT which Plato and Euripides *thought* possible, Jesus saw to be real; and so he said, "He who liveth and believeth in me shall never die." So he always called death sleep; so his disciples said that he had abolished death.

December 16. *Friday.*

THE instinct of immortality may be dormant in man. It is so as long as the lower nature is supreme. While we live from the body, we die, and have no sense of immortal life: when we live from the spirit, we are full of immortality, and death is abolished.

December 17. *Saturday. Birthday of Whittier.*

THE poet used to be called a priest; and the true poet is a priest after the order of Melchizedek, for he shows us God in the world. Such a priest was Wordsworth,

sanctifying the thoughts of men. Such a priest is Whittier, filling nature and life with a sense of God's presence.

December 18. *Sunday.*

EVERY prayer for strength to do our duty brings us into communion with the unseen world. Every faithful effort to do well, every hour of patient endurance, puts us into communion with the things above.

December 19. *Monday.*

AND so we realize that death is nothing; that we are already immortal; that the hour of immortal life cometh, and now is. Death ceases to exist to a Christian. He looks forward to the time when he shall fall asleep, and wake again, surrounded by all whom he loves and who love him,—by the spirits of the just made perfect.

December 20. *Tuesday.*

SOFT as an infant's sleep shall be the coming of death to you and me. Sweet shall be that rest as it falls on the weary soul and exhausted body. Tenderly shall the death cloud envelop us, and hide all familiar things from our failing sight.

December 21. *Wednesday.*

WHEN we wake again, with no abrupt transition, with no astonishment, but with a serene satisfaction, we shall find ourselves softly led into new being in the midst of old and new friends.

December 22. Thursday.

THE star of the magi still stands over every cradle. The angel song is heard in the heart of every parent. Christmas makes an aureole of heavenly light around all the infants in Christian lands.

December 23. Friday.

EVERY good gift is from above. But, as the year brings round this Christmas season, we can rejoice that God sent, in the fulness of time, that eldest Son, our elder brother, who has gifts for all mankind.

December 24. Saturday.

CHRISTMAS is a presage of the time when wars shall cease, when the whole church shall be one, when the Christ of love and truth shall be everywhere accepted, obeyed, and loved, and the knowledge of God shall fill the earth as the waters cover the sea.

December 25. Sunday.

WE rejoice in Christ's hope for mankind; we are happy in his brotherly love; we are led by him to his Father and our Father, to his God and our God; we join in the angels' song, "Glory to God in the highest; and on earth, peace, good will to men."

December 26. Monday.

LET us thank God that there are many keys by which to open the blessed door which leads into the heavenly kingdom. To one the door is opened in childhood; and

the little feet go in, and the small curly head is already surrounded with the pure glory of a light beaming from the presence of God.

December 27. *Tuesday.*

ANOTHER drops early the trivialities and follies of youth, and lifts deep, earnest eyes towards the great truths of life and time, of death and eternity.

December 28. *Wednesday.*

ONE is moved by the noble words, the holy life, and the rapt enthusiasm of the saints and martyrs, by the utterings of genius and the eloquence of fiery hearts, and follows, with enthusiastic love, their pathway, till they lead him to the mountain heights of holy truth.

December 29. *Thursday.*

ONE enters the kingdom by faithful work: loyalty to duty unlocks the door, and he goes in. One finds the key through temptation, sorrow, sin, remorse, penitence, turning to God in hopeless shame, but meeting hope and unexpected joy shed abroad in his heart. One rises from the bed of sickness with all of his past life closed behind him, and a new life, filled with purer hopes, opening upward into heaven.

December 30. *Friday.*

THUS it is that immortality and heaven are coming, because they are already here. Thus it is that true worship, pure Christianity, humane religion, are sure to

come to their full and ripe harvest, because they are already here in their seed and germ. So it is that the living experience and the deep convictions of the human heart are always a sure word of prophecy of the glory which is to be revealed; and the life which comes now from God and Christ is the promise and assurance of the life which is to come hereafter.

December 31. *Saturday.*

SUCH are the different paths which lead us to God: so we come, at last, to Christ, the image of the invisible God. The air of heaven, even here, begins to fan our heated brow; the music of heaven comes softly down, mingling with our daily life; the light of the upper world shines into our poor human hearts. God be blessed for it all,—for all the sorrow, all the joy, all the experience of good and evil, light threads and dark threads shooting to and fro across the web of human life! Brothers and sisters,—dear friends of mine, fellow-workers in this wonderful world,—let us be fellow-helpers through it, till we meet on that higher shore, in that larger liberty, and with that fuller peace of rest and action which remains for God's children beyond the low-arched gateway that mortals call death.

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